

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA * 1:19-cr-142-01-LM
v. * June 10, 2021
NATHAN CRAIGUE * 9:17 p.m.
* *

SEALED TRANSCRIPT OF STATUS CONFERENCE
BEFORE THE HONORABLE LANDYA B. McCAFFERTY

Appearances:

For the Government:

John S. Davis, AUSA
Aaron G. Gingrande, AUSA
United States Attorney's Office

For the Defendant:

Dorothy E. Graham, Esq.
Behzad Mirhashem, Esq.
Federal Defender's Office

Court Reporter:

Liza W. Dubois, RMR, CRR
Official Court Reporter
United States District Court
55 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
(603) 225-1442

1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2

3 THE CLERK: Hi, Judge. Good evening. Can you hear
4 me?
5

6 THE COURT: Yes, I can. Can you hear me?
7

8 THE CLERK: Okay. Yes. Let me announce the case.
9 And Tracy's here, but she is on the telephone, and then we have
10 counsel.
11

12 So, for the record, this is a hearing in the United
13 States vs. Nathan Craigue. It's 19-cr-142-01-LM.
14

15 And I'm not sure if it's under seal or not, the
16 hearing, but --
17

18 THE COURT: No, I don't think so.
19

20 THE CLERK: All right.
21

22 THE COURT: All right. So I've gotten copied on
23 what appears to be a -- the government is intending to move to
24 strike [REDACTED] testimony. And I want to know the legal
25 authority for that and then I just want to know what's the
defendant's position with respect to that motion.

First let me know what's your position, attorney
Behzad -- Attorney Mirhashem and Attorney Graham.

MR. MIRHASHEM: Your Honor, I -- our request is --
and I -- I appreciate the Court has been very patient with us,
but I'm going to be very honest with you.

I got up at 3:30 this morning to start working on
this case. It's 9:20 right now. So many things have happened

1 today. We need to slow this down to make sure we do it right.

2 Attorney Davis five minutes ago told me that

3 Mr. Carroll has admitted paying [REDACTED] to testify before a
4 federal grand jury. My --

5 THE COURT: Right. I'm going to stop you just for a
6 minute because this hearing is not going to be a long hearing.
7 And I can tell you this; I am not inclined to grant a motion to
8 strike. I want to hear the legal authority for the motion to
9 strike, but I am not inclined to grant that motion.

10 So what I would say is that -- and I -- I want to
11 hear your position on the motion, but ultimately I'm not
12 inclined to grant that at this point.

13 So my thinking is get ready for cross-examination of
14 [REDACTED] tomorrow. We'll start with Officer Kelly and then
15 we'll move right into [REDACTED].

16 I want to hear -- and obviously I'll research the
17 legal authority for the motion to strike the testimony, but
18 I -- this -- this is unusual. This is your own witness. You
19 put this witness on in your case in chief. This witness's
20 testimony has been very strong for the government, at least
21 during direct, so, therefore, very prejudicial to -- to the
22 defendant.

23 And so give me the authority, Attorney Davis, for
24 the motion to strike.

25 MR. DAVIS: Judge, it's the judge's discretionary

1 authority to remedy discovery violations, which is in Rule
2 16(d) (2). And while I -- we have drafted the motion. I sent
3 it to Behzad. We still don't know his position. We've all
4 been -- so, anyway, I could send you the motion.

5 We cite a case, *Sepulveda*, which is an old
6 New Hampshire case, 15 F.3d 1161. That's actually a motion for
7 a mistrial, and the Court there struck the testimony of an
8 expert witness and issued a curative instruction, which is what
9 we're seeking here.

10 It is an unusual motion and an unusual situation,
11 Judge.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 MR. DAVIS: We do -- we do have -- we do agree that
14 there was a payment made by the Concord Police Department to
15 [REDACTED] in part at least to pay him for his grand jury
16 testimony.

17 THE COURT: What -- I am -- and here's the other
18 thing I want to do before we get off.

19 If your authority is 16(d) -- and I'm looking at 16
20 right now -- failure to comply: If a party fails to comply
21 with this rule, the Court may: (A) order that party to permit
22 the discovery or inspection, specify its time, place, and
23 manner, and prescribe other just terms and conditions; (B)
24 grant a continuance; (C) prohibit that party from introducing
25 the undisclosed evidence; or (D) enter any other order that is

1 just under the circumstances.

2 And so are you relying on (D) ?

3 MR. DAVIS: Yes.

4 THE COURT: Okay. And in my mind, striking this
5 gentlemen's direct testimony and not allowing Attorney
6 Mirhashem to cross-examine him and expose what occurred in this
7 case would be harm, substantial harm, to his case.

8 And so I analyze it similarly to a Fifth Amendment
9 issue. If he had simply pled the Fifth and he didn't get
10 immunity, where would -- we'd be in the same spot. And,
11 ultimately, I am worried -- I would be worried in that
12 situation a curative instruction is not going to -- is not
13 going to cure it.

14 And in light of the facts and the seriousness of
15 this, that the Concord PD, and that -- and that you did not
16 find out about it until the middle of the trial, I -- I do not
17 think there's anything just about striking this witness's
18 testimony under these circumstances.

19 So that's my -- that's my immediate reaction to a
20 motion to strike. A lot of things happen during a trial and
21 this one has been unusual in that way, but we're going to
22 continue with the trial. And tomorrow Officer Kelly is on the
23 stand and he's going to be cross-examined by Attorney Mirhashem
24 for about an hour, a redirect, and then we'll put on [REDACTED]
25 for what should be a lengthy cross-examination.

1 And with respect to the issue of the motion to
2 dismiss for prosecutorial misconduct, I would like to hear
3 right now -- because I know that you told it to me in passing
4 today, but I'm not sure I got the full details and I'm not sure
5 I remember them.

6 Tell me how it was that the government learned today
7 about the -- the CI information. I -- I know that it started
8 when Attorney Mirhashem brought up the drug use.

9 Can you back up and explain to me the sequence of
10 events so that I can make a record of that and I can understand
11 what -- in terms of the government's lack of due diligence here
12 to cause this situation, I need to understand what has
13 happened.

14 Because a motion to strike, ultimately, I am not
15 going to grant that. I can tell you that right now. There's
16 just -- you're not giving me enough legal authority for it. It
17 does not -- it is not just to do that and I'm not going to
18 grant it. We're going to continue with the trial.

19 I am, however -- I would like to contemplate the
20 issue of a dismissal for prosecutorial misconduct, and I'd like
21 to hear the detailed evidence with regard to the lack of due
22 diligence on the part of the government with Concord Police
23 Department, which is in the same town, and we have a probation
24 officer in the courthouse who worked there who was involved in
25 this case.

1 I -- I know that -- and I understand that this is
2 not a situation where Attorney Davis or Attorney Gingrande knew
3 this information and didn't disclose it. That's clear. But in
4 terms of just basic due diligence, I need to know what
5 happened. How was it discovered?

6 And if you could just put that on the record for me,
7 a combination perhaps of Attorney Davis, Attorney Mirhashem, so
8 that I can understand exactly what transpired before I -- we
9 come to court tomorrow.

10 MR. DAVIS: Judge, Attorney Mirhashem sent us an
11 email late yesterday. I'm not sure what time. I had the
12 email. I'd have to find it. But what he said in it was he was
13 requesting that we inquire of William Carroll and the Concord
14 Police Department regarding their -- I think he said contacts
15 or relationship with [REDACTED] and if we didn't do that that he
16 was going to file a motion and to let us know what we were
17 doing. And so I emailed him and said we're inquiring.

18 We then spoke by phone. We reached William Carroll
19 and we asked him about his relationship with [REDACTED]. And
20 William Carroll told us that [REDACTED] had been a CI for Concord
21 Police and that there was a CI file.

22 And we then subpoenaed -- I actually drew up the
23 subpoena last night. We subpoenaed Concord Police and the
24 subpoena was served at something like I don't know what time
25 this morning and we gave Concord Police as much heads up as we

1 could that it was coming. Of course, Mr. Carroll doesn't work
2 there anymore.

3 And this morning they found the file and I think ran
4 it through legal and sent us over the file, which we got it and
5 I think I reported to you we had it.

6 We then looked at the file and decided -- and we
7 could see that he was a paid informant and knew that we were
8 going to disclose it and we disclosed it to defense counsel
9 with an oral agreement to a protective order. And that's what
10 happened.

11 And what the file indicated is that there was -- you
12 know, we can make a record of this, but the file -- the file is
13 two -- two documents of particular note. One is a memo by
14 William Carroll that documents it -- a meeting on May 16th of
15 2019, which is the day after [REDACTED] testified in grand jury.
16 And on that day, there is documented a payment made to [REDACTED]
17 for \$80 and that payment record references the case number of
18 William Brouillet in responding to the scene in this case and
19 it says, for information that led to indictment, which is --
20 apparently was in error, because I guess William Carroll may
21 have thought the case had been indicted. It had not been
22 indicted. It was not indicted until July.

23 But Mr. Carroll admits that he made the payment and
24 immediately signed up [REDACTED]. And for the next 12 days,
25 approximately, until May 28th of 2019, there were a number of

1 drug buys that [REDACTED] cooperated in and he was paid I think
2 \$40 a buy and the total amount paid him, I think Mr. Gingrande
3 added up, was \$280.

4 At the end of that period, [REDACTED] did not seem
5 interested in -- particularly interested in making more buys
6 and so they stopped using him. And Mr. Carroll said that the
7 Concord Police policy is that a -- within a -- if they -- an
8 informant is inactive for a year, he's terminated at the end of
9 the year.

10 And so the CI status would have been terminated,
11 although that's not reflected in the file, sometime in 2020 and
12 Mr. Carroll then came to the probation office in September of
13 2020.

14 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Is there anything to
15 add to that record, Attorney Mirhashem?

16 MR. MIRHASHEM: Yes. The record will show in
17 this case in September of 2019, days after the accident,
18 Sean Roberts of --

19 THE COURT: You mean 2018?

20 MR. MIRHASHEM: 2018.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 MR. MIRHASHEM: Agent Roberts documented the fact
23 that because OSHA and the Department of Labor were having
24 difficulty bringing in [REDACTED] for another interview, they
25 reached out to William Carroll, who had a previous relationship

1 with [REDACTED] to help establish rapport with him. This occurs
2 in the discovery that the government provided to the defense.

3 Now, the government knew that [REDACTED] -- I mean, I
4 can tell you, going into this trial, the one witness that the
5 defense was really concerned about was [REDACTED]. Because Erickson,
6 we had -- he's got a felony conviction; he's got, you know, a
7 pending DWI. [REDACTED] is just like this [REDACTED]; he just had
8 a misdemeanor that was dismissed and how are we going to
9 cross-examine him.

10 And so he had this previous relationship and --

11 THE COURT: Okay. Let me just stop you.

12 MR. MIRHASHEM: Okay.

13 THE COURT: So the fact that Roberts, who is the
14 case agent, am I right?

15 MR. MIRHASHEM: Yes.

16 THE COURT: Roberts is the case agent. He's aware
17 of the fact that OSHA and Department of Labor are somehow
18 looking to talk to [REDACTED] and they want to get -- somehow get
19 William Carroll involved. And --

20 MR. MIRHASHEM: Because of the previous
21 relationship. Sorry, I interrupted you.

22 THE COURT: All right. That's in the discovery that
23 the government gave to you?

24 MR. MIRHASHEM: In more than one place.

25 THE COURT: Okay.

1 MR. MIRHASHEM: Sean Roberts made --

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 MR. MIRHASHEM: -- a time line. And in the time
4 line, he has this development. You -- there's a table that,
5 you know, if we get to a hearing on a motion to dismiss we will
6 submit --

7 THE COURT: Right.

8 MR. MIRHASHEM: -- and you'll see that the
9 government has known this for a long time.

10 Now --

11 THE COURT: Okay. That's a piece of this that I've
12 not understood until now.

13 MR. MIRHASHEM: Right.

14 THE COURT: But this was actually in discovery.

15 MR. MIRHASHEM: In discovery. So --

16 THE COURT: And so this is something that Attorney
17 Davis and Attorney Gingrande have been aware of; that, in fact,
18 there was some connection to William Carroll in order to
19 establish rapport and the government did not look into that?

20 Did you -- did you ask for Giglio material formally
21 at an earlier time than via email a few days ago, Attorney
22 Mirhashem, Attorney Graham?

23 MR. MIRHASHEM: Oh, I'm sorry. Did we ask for it?
24 Well, let me -- let me put it this way. First of all, our
25 position -- I'm just going to fast forward and read the email

1 that I sent that Attorney Davis talked about because then I
2 think that could be a -- so the answer to your question is we
3 sent a discovery letter to the government at the beginning of
4 our case. And I'll have to check, but I think that includes
5 requests for exculpatory evidence. But what we always do is
6 the court's local rules require disclosure of Brady and Giglio
7 material, I believe it's three weeks before trial.

8 The Supreme Court in multiple cases has made it
9 clear that the government's obligation does not turn on a
10 request from the defense. So we didn't have to request it.
11 What I quoted in the email that Attorney Davis referred to is,
12 I said: As you know, the -- quote -- the individual prosecutor
13 has a duty to learn of any favorable evidence known to the
14 others acting on the government's behalf in the case, including
15 the police. I put in the citation to *Kyles vs. Whitley*. I
16 mean, I said, "as you know," and I prefaced that by, hey, there
17 is this reference to a previous relationship.

18 I mean, we, as the defense, are in the dark as to
19 what does the government actually do in a case to comply with
20 its obligations. Whenever we bring this up, the response is we
21 know about our obligation. But we don't get to find out what
22 they do.

23 So here we know there's a previous relationship; we
24 know we don't have to make a request; we know that the
25 government is aware of its obligation; we know that there's a

1 court rule that says three weeks before trial, you have to turn
2 over Giglio materials. So -- so, no --

3 THE COURT: I understand. Okay. All right. I
4 understand that. I'm just trying to fact-gather.

5 MR. MIRHASHEM: Right.

6 THE COURT: Let me ask you this, Attorney Davis.

7 In light of the fact that this was in the discovery,
8 that you were actually on notice of this relationship and you
9 did not look into it or have some investigator look into it,
10 how is that not grounds for dismissal on prosecutorial
11 misconduct, not handing over this -- this relationship before
12 the trial ever started?

13 MR. DAVIS: Well, Judge, I -- I mean, there's so
14 many things coming at me here at 9:40 p.m., it's difficult to
15 respond.

16 I'm not sure what -- I'm actually not sure what the
17 report actually says. But I -- I do -- because I've seen
18 Behzad quote it, I don't question it, and I know that the case
19 agent was aware of a relationship. That's true. It's not in
20 the discovery and it's not documented anywhere that he was a
21 CI. And there are many different ways, of course, a person or
22 a police officer can have a relationship with a [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED].

24 Now -- so I wasn't aware of a CI relationship.

25 THE COURT: I -- I know. No one has said that. But

1 there was apparently at least an indication that the OSHA and
2 Department of Labor folks wanted the help of William Carroll,
3 who was at the Concord PD, a central player in this case, and
4 needed him to help establish rapport to get [REDACTED] in there to
5 talk to them.

6 So, again, I -- that, to me, would suggest at least
7 a phone call to William Carroll, some sort of investigation to
8 find out what was going on there so that in case there's some
9 sort of exculpatory evidence, you turn it over. But it
10 certainly has a feeling of perhaps having some potential
11 exculpatory value to it. But to just completely ignore it,
12 that's the reason we are here now at, you know, 10:40 -- 9:40
13 having a hearing.

14 So what I would say, it is late, but I am
15 contemplating the issue of whether or not this misconduct
16 deserves dismissal without hearing the rest of the, you know,
17 cross-examination of all the other witnesses. This, to me, is
18 a fundamental lack of due diligence on the part of the
19 government in terms of doing its obligation with respect to
20 Brady.

21 So I want to consider that as I -- as I think about
22 these issues, but I -- I am not prepared to make a ruling on
23 that without giving counsel, obviously, an opportunity to argue
24 that and file something on that. And I'm sorry to have to ask
25 you to do it, but I'm going to need to have briefing on that

1 and I think I'm going to need it this weekend, and the trial
2 will continue. It will proceed tomorrow morning. But I would
3 like to also think about this issue before -- perhaps before
4 the case is over.

5 And I think I have the record here with respect to
6 this issue in terms of William Carroll and I know you could
7 make hay, Attorney Mirhashem, perhaps, putting William Carroll
8 on the stand and putting other witnesses on the stand, but I
9 don't see that there's a lot of dispute about the basics with
10 respect to what happened here in terms of this -- the lack of
11 due diligence, the lack of any effort on the part of the
12 government to follow up on this and find out what the heck is
13 going on. Why in the world are OSHA and Department of Labor
14 working with Concord PD to bring [REDACTED] in to help establish
15 rapport? That would suggest they have a prior relationship
16 with him and they know him well. Somebody does. So I am
17 concerned about it from that perspective.

18 The motion to strike is denied. We're going to
19 start -- I'm happy to meet at 8:00 a.m.

20 Apparently there's also a witness issue. Tracy
21 Uhrin got an email from a subpoenaed defense witness, I think,
22 and that his attorney is going to be there tomorrow. I don't
23 know if we'll have time necessarily to deal with that issue,
24 but we'll put Kelly right on at 9:00 and go right into [REDACTED]
25 tomorrow.

1 So that's -- that's my plan. And I'd like counsel
2 to brief the question -- the issue of a motion to dismiss.

3 So I think, Attorney Mirhashem, Attorney Graham,
4 I -- I need that motion and the government's going to need the
5 ability to respond to it and I'm going to give you a very, very
6 short time frame.

7 So if you could file your motion, Attorney
8 Mirhashem, file it by Saturday noon, government files a
9 response by Sunday at noon, and then I can have the weekend to
10 research, think about, the issue before Monday. But we're not
11 going to -- we're not postponing the trial for any reason.

12 So we will plow ahead. I will meet you -- I will
13 meet you at 9:00 unless you need to speak with me at 8:00 or
14 8:30. I suspect I should probably just say meet you at 8:00,
15 just so you have the night to think about things and come fresh
16 in the morning. Would that -- would that make sense to
17 everybody?

18 MR. MIRHASHEM: I mean, I'll speak for myself at
19 this point.

20 I mean, I think that so many things have happened
21 these past couple of days, I can use every minute to -- if
22 we're actually going to -- because -- I'm rambling, but if I
23 could just -- can I have one minute -- I'm going to be very
24 brief. I just want to make two points very quickly.

25 THE COURT: Go ahead.

1 MR. MIRHASHEM: One is there is a separate ground
2 for dismissal here that we will brief quite aside from not
3 turning over exculpatory evidence, which is what -- the
4 indictment that our client is, you know, facing, somebody --
5 and this may have been the -- somebody was paid to testify
6 against him. I mean, I know we're used to payment in the world
7 of drugs on the street, but I'm going to research is it really
8 not a crime in this country for Mr. Carroll to take \$80 and
9 hand it to a witness and say, this is for your testimony? I
10 mean, that's -- so there's a separate ground for a dismissal.

11 This Court is really not going to -- well, we would
12 request that this Court dismiss this case quite aside from the
13 exculpatory evidence issue because of the outrageous
14 misconduct, known or unknown to these two individuals
15 personally, that the police department that was investigating
16 this case paid a witness.

17 And Mr. Davis left out something from that report
18 from Mr. Carroll. He has it in front of him and I don't, but
19 the report refers to his cooperation with DOL. The -- the
20 money, we will I expect establish, was not paid for helping the
21 Concord PD. This is a federal case. So a witness got paid.
22 So that's one issue.

23 The other -- I know the Court has decided this and
24 I'm just going to be very brief. Our request is -- to have us
25 just go out in the dark before the jury and see what all these

1 people say is really not fair. We should -- our request would
2 be the jury can be told to come back on Monday, we can have a
3 hearing tomorrow, have these people testify, get down to the
4 facts.

5 Because I'll say this, and I'm choosing my words
6 carefully. This morning I did say, well, I have no doubt that
7 these two individuals didn't know. But I'll tell you,
8 Mr. Davis does not seem at all perturbed by this matter. I
9 don't understand how it can't be shocking that a witness was
10 paid to testify before a grand jury. But for an email that I
11 sent, our client would have been convicted.

12 And if people aren't shocked by this -- who knows
13 who knew in his office. We want a hearing. I'm not going to
14 accuse people of being untruthful without evidence, but we do
15 want testimony under oath up and down the chain of command to
16 see who knew about this. William Carroll, who's -- he just
17 pays this guy \$80 and walks away?

18 This is not a Concord PD case. Concord PD decided
19 there wasn't evidence for manslaughter. Why is he -- why is a
20 state police agency paying somebody to testify before a federal
21 grand jury for a federal false statement crime? That makes no
22 sense to me. Whether it was Sean Roberts, whether it was an
23 Assistant United States Attorney, some federal person knew
24 about this and we're going to do whatever we can to expose
25 that.

1 THE COURT: And I say to you the same thing I said
2 today, that ultimately you will cross the heck out of these
3 witnesses because you now have the CI file and you have
4 information about this payment. And you will be allowed to
5 cross-examine those witnesses aggressively.

6 And I am not going to stop the trial and take a huge
7 break. We're going forward with the trial tomorrow. And I
8 will take the motion to dismiss under advisement and I would
9 want you to submit your brief by noon on Saturday and the
10 government's response by noon on Sunday, but I'm not going to
11 delay the trial so that you can do all kinds of discovery and
12 witness examination and -- because I'm going to let you do
13 that.

14 If after this trial he is convicted, I will give you
15 a week-long evidentiary hearing if that's what it takes,
16 Attorney Mirhashem, to uncover what happened here. But I don't
17 understand why I absolutely have to stop the jury trial in its
18 tracks right now when I know ultimately the cross-examination,
19 the material you have for cross-examination, is -- is
20 astounding.

21 So -- and I know you are a talented lawyer. So I am
22 not -- I'm not concerned. I think tomorrow you'll wake up and
23 you'll be ready to go. And I think we all will.

24 I would say that I don't think that Attorney Davis's
25 demeanor is any indication perhaps of what he's thinking and I

1 think he's simply prosecuting the case as diligently as he can.

2 So I -- I think there's a due diligence issue here,
3 but I -- I do not think, and I am loathe to think, that anybody
4 in his office was aware of this. And I would suggest that
5 everybody in his office would have -- would have a reaction to
6 this.

7 So I just say that as a judge very familiar with
8 Attorney Davis and his office.

9 Attorney Davis, go ahead.

10 MR. DAVIS: Judge, I appreciate that.

11 What I wanted to raise is it's quite possible that
12 in light of the Court's declining to strike the testimony,
13 we'll talk again with our management and that we will move to
14 dismiss tomorrow. I -- I don't -- I don't know that we'll do
15 that, but I -- I certainly think it's possible, and so just
16 come in in the morning and move to dismiss. I just don't know
17 what we're going to do and I need to talk again with
18 Mark Zuckerman and perhaps the U.S. Attorney.

19 The reason I raise that is that if we do that, I
20 assume that the trial then ends and the jury will have come in
21 to no effect. And I wonder if -- if it may make more sense to
22 call them off and get the briefing and -- I think the Court is
23 obviously interested and thinking about moving to dismiss on
24 its own this weekend regardless.

25 So, anyway, I just -- I just -- I want you to know

1 we may come in tomorrow and move to dismiss. I just don't
2 know.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I'm not going to hold the
4 jury back and we're going to go forward tomorrow morning at
5 9:00 a.m.

6 If you need to speak with me -- I want to give
7 Attorney Mirhashem to 9:00 a.m. to prepare. If you need to
8 meet with me before that, just let Attorney Esposito know.

9 All right. Thank you, counsel. See you in the
10 morning. Court's adjourned.

11 (Proceedings concluded at 9:53 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Liza W. Dubois, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate transcription of the within proceedings, to the best of my knowledge, skill, ability and belief.

Submitted: 7/6/2021

/s/ Liza W. Dubois
LIZA W. DUBOIS, RMR, CRR